

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 11, 15 and 16, and cancel claims 6, 8-10, and 12-14 as follows.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested to place this application in condition for allowance. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A porous body ~~comprising~~, consisting of a porous sericin skeleton ~~constituent, said~~ formed of a material consisting of sericin having an average molecular weight of 30000 to 400000, and having a recovery rate of 10 to 100% after 50% compression.
2. (Original) The porous body of claim 1 having an average pore diameter of 0.1 to 5000  $\mu\text{m}$ .
3. (Original) The porous body of claim 1 having a porosity of 70 to 99%.
4. (Original) ~~The porous body of claim 1 further containing~~ A porous body consisting of:  
a porous skeleton formed of a material consisting of sericin having an average molecular weight of 30000 to 400000, and having a recovery rate of 10% to 100% after 50% compression,  
and,  
a functional substance ~~in an immobilized state~~ in the skeleton.

5. (Original) The porous body of claim 4 wherein the functional substance is a living body-derived substance.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The porous body of claim 2 having a porosity of 70 to 99%.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The porous body of claim ~~10~~ 4 wherein the functional substance is a living body-derived substance.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A porous body obtained by gelling an aqueous solution containing sericin with an average molecular weight of 30,000 to ~~40,000~~ 400,000 and having a recovery rate of 10% to 100% after 50% compression, thereafter freezing the resulting gel and then allowing the frozen gel to thaw.

16. (Currently amended) The porous body of claim 1 wherein said skeleton is obtained by gelling an aqueous solution containing sericin with an average molecular weight of 30,000 to ~~40,000~~ 400,000, thereafter freezing the resulting gel and then allowing the frozen gel to thaw.